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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

E-595A

August 30, 1983

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6 Dear /

I have been asked to respond to your letter to Vice President Bush concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

We share your strong concern about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg and we are taking every appropriate opportunity to make this known to the Soviet authorities. As you may know, in 1981 President Reagan signed a bill which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States. Making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American citizen was an important symbolic act. It let the entire world know how much we admire Raoul Wallenberg's courage, how much we are inspired by his dedication to humanity and humanitarian principles, and how much we deplore his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Union.

Following the signing ceremony which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American, the Department of State made the Soviet Government formally and officially aware of our continued dedication to finding out the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate. To date, the United States has not received a response from the Soviet Government, but we shall continue in our efforts to clarify the tragic mystery of Wallenberg's fate until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in this case.

We have pressed this effort both on a bilateral basis and at international fora, such as the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In this regard, last year our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Mr. Michael Novak, urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture, which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely, a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else, in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At this year's session of the Commission, on February 22, Alternate Representative Walter Berns again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." Mr. Berns suggested that the UN Human Rights Commission's working group on disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case "involving the most famous of all disappeared persons."

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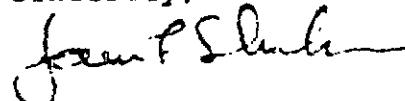
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We have also continued to work closely with the Government of Sweden to try to confirm reports that have come to light about Wallenberg. To date, we have been unable to confirm any of the reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive. We intend to continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On August 3 Edward J. Derwinski, Counselor of the State Department, testified in Congress on the subject of Raoul Wallenberg. As he stated on that occasion, "Our position has remained consistent and clear. Until the Soviets provide a full clarification of Wallenberg's fate, the United States will not accept as final the Soviet assurances that Wallenberg died in 1947.... I can assure you categorically that this matter will be raised again in every appropriate forum."

Sincerely,



James F. Schumaker
Officer-in-Charge
Bilateral Relations
Office of Soviet Union Affairs

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